



Small Projects Day – April 7, 2020, Section 2: Resource Specialist Review

Project Name: Frost Wayside Connector Trail Improvements

A proposed action may be categorically excluded from analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS only if there are no extraordinary circumstances related to that proposed action. Potential presence of extraordinary circumstances must be addressed by the appropriate resource specialists.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE	
	YES	NO	YES	NO			
Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat (ANIMALS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	3/22/20	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale: Bats-Tree removal in-season (June 1 to August 31) could result in take.							
Forest Service sensitive Species (RFSS-Animals)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale: Bats-Tree removal in-season (June 1 to August 31) could result in take.							
Describe Mitigations required: Bats-Tree cutting should be done outside of June 1 to August 31. If additional trees need removal consult district biological staff.							
BE Complete-This document serves as the BE.	Y	N	USFWS Consultation Complete?		Y	N	N/A
Date Completed: 3/22/20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date Completed: 3/22/20		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat (PLANTS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Forest Service sensitive Species (RFSS-Plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MB Deller/ Botanist	March 25, 2020	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale: No RFSS are known to occur there							
Describe Mitigations required: None							
BE Complete?	Y	N					
Date Completed: March 25, 2020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Flood plains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears,	3/30/2020	

¹ FSH 1909.15 Section 30

² The mere presence of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. It is the degree of the potential effect of a proposed action on these resource conditions that determines whether extraordinary circumstance exist.





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
					Fish Biologist	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Describe Mitigations required: none						
Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	3/22/20
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Temporary impacts during construction but expect long term benefit. Describe Mitigations required: None.						
Army Corps of Engineer permit needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GP17; SV eligible since temporary and permanent impacts to waterways and wetlands are <5000 sq ft			
Municipal watersheds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	3/22/20
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Describe Mitigations required:						
Designated Wilderness Areas Wilderness Names: Joseph Battell and Breadloaf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager	3/18/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Project area located over 1.5 miles from nearest Wilderness areas: Joseph Battell and Breadloaf Describe Mitigations required:						
Designated National Recreation Areas NRA Name: Moosalamoo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager	3/18/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Positive effect – increase/improvement in recreation opportunities, including universally accessible amenities.						





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE		
	YES	NO	YES	NO				
Describe Mitigations required:								
National Scenic Trails Trail Name: Appalachian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager	3/18/2020		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale: Project area is located over 18 miles from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.								
Describe Mitigations required:								
Eligible Wild, Scenic, Recreational Rivers Type: Recreational River Name: North Branch Middlebury River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager	3/18/2020		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale: Project area is located over 2 miles from the nearest eligible Wild, Scenic and Recreational River (eWSR): the North Branch Middlebury River eWSR. The activity is located outside of the river corridor; as a result, the effects from the project associated with the outstandingly remarkable values identified for this river are not expected to be adverse, and thus will not preclude it from future consideration for addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System.								
Describe Mitigations required:								
Roadless Area Conservation Rule Areas (RACR)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shawn Langston, NEPA Planner	3/16/2020		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale: The project area is not located within a RACR area.								
Describe Mitigations required:								
Research Natural Areas (RNAs) RNA Name(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	3/30/20		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale: Not present.								





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Describe Mitigations required: None.						
American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Triplett/ Tribal Liaison	March 31, 2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Triplett/ Forest Archeologist	March 31, 2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale: There is a known, but unrecorded, historic site that is potentially eligible for the National Register near the connector trail. Creation of this trail will increase visibility of this site, but should not adversely affect it.						
Describe Mitigations required: Site will need to be fully recorded to determine its boundaries to make sure parts of the site are not impacted by trail construction.						

OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A. Quintana, Soil Scientist	3/18/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale: Although some soil disturbance is expected, long-term soil productivity would be maintained.						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	3/22/20
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						





OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE		
	YES	NO	YES	NO				
Rationale: project will benefit water resources.								
Describe Mitigations required:								
Visuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emily Lauderdale, Landscape Architect	3/25/2020		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale: Proposed activities will have a positive effect on site aesthetics and will not adversely affect visual quality objectives.								
Describe Mitigations required:								
Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager	3/18/2020		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale: Positive effect – increase/improvement in recreation opportunities, including universally accessible amenities.								
Describe Mitigations required:								
Fisheries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	3/22/20		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale: project will benefit fish habitat.								
Describe Mitigations required:								
Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	3/22/20		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale: 7 species of migratory bird, including bobolinks are known to use this area.								





OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE						
	YES	NO	YES	NO								
Describe Mitigations required: Before trail work in the blueberry field request a survey be conducted by district biological staff for ground nesting birds.												
Ecological (Special Areas; Significant Ecological Features; Ecosystem Composition, Structure & Function)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	3/30/20						
Level of anticipated effect - Check one	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect		<input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse		<input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale:												
Describe Mitigations required:												
Non-native Invasive Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MB Deller/ Botanist	March 25, 2020						
Level of anticipated effect - Check one	<input type="checkbox"/> no effect		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse		<input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale: Site is already infested, and it will be challenging not to move infestations around, but mitigations should help.												
Describe Mitigations required: Any wheeled or tracked equipment driven onto the site to implement the work must be cleaned prior to accessing the site, to avoid potential introduction of NNIP. If equipment travels through infestations to do work, or if it is unknown whether it has traveled through infestations, the equipment must be cleaned again prior to leaving the site to avoid spreading NNIP from this site to elsewhere. Any method of cleaning that is feasible on site is acceptable, e.g., a portable power washer, or stiff brooms. The goal is no plant debris, and no mud that might contain it, being transported elsewhere. Also, work with Botanist to ensure pollinator plants, or anything else planted as part of this project, are locally native species.												
Range (FLNF)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matt Lark, Natural Resource Specialist	04/07/2020						
Level of anticipated effect - Check one	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect		<input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse		<input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale:												
Describe Mitigations required:												





OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (as applicable)	INVOLVEMENT REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO		
Timber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David J. Haberl, PreSale Forester	04/07/2020
Remarks: Remarks: Red pine removal and trail relocation tree removal could be utilized through a small sale, or firewood permit depending on quantity. It is in the best interest of surrounding timber to remove all trees affected by root rot, especially red pine within a recreation area as windfirm issues will become even more of a safety concern. Recommend consultation with a forest Silviculturist for vegetation management prescription development.				
Fire/Fuels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lindsay Rae Silvia Fuels Technician	03/24/2020
Remarks: The rerouting of the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail may have impact on future prescribed fire implementation depending on specific layout and construction material used. Prescribed Fire is conducted to maintain this blueberry opening for both wildlife and recreation. It will be helpful to consider routing the easternmost section of the trail along FS/private boundary so that the trail may be used as an existing containment feature, from which fire managers can burn off of and avoid line construction or further soil disturbance. Also confirming that wooden edging will not be installed along trail, with consideration that it is flammable material.				
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Austin/FE	3/27/2020
Remarks: All engineered trail structures not currently recognized as a FS trail standard will be reviewed and approved by engineering prior to implementation. The FS will need to coordinate with VTrans regarding a pedestrian crossing of a state highway and acquire any required documentation. This will need to include VTrans required signing and pavement markings.				
Accessibility/Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donna Marks Safety&OccupHealth	3/31/2020
Remarks: Follow FSTAG (Trail Accessibility Guidelines) to improve and increase accessibility to the trail network. Develop signage that describes accessible trail elements as described in the FSTAG.at the trailheads.				
Survey/Landline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Austin/Staff Officer	3/27/2020
Remarks:				

QUESTIONS FOR PROPONENT:**NOTES:**



Responsible Official: Christopher Mattrick

Documentation Level and CE Category (DM, LTF): DM E1, E7, E12, D4

Who to include for scoping: Moosalamoo Association, Ripton, Ripton Historical Society, Middlebury College

Forest Plan consistency: Yes

Field visit (who & when): Heritage, Fire

Desired decision date: May 2020

Desired implementation date: June 2020

